NOTICE.

There will be no issue of the Bulletin on 2—1—1943, on account of preceding Christmas holidays. The next number will appear on 9—1—1943. —*Editor.*

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CXXVII.

1942

Writing on the eve of the New Year we wish our readers happy days and our cause a resounding and decisive victory. The world is in the midst of a deadly conflict waging the ghastliest of wars known to history, beside which Alexander's, Caesar's, Napoleon's campaigns seem puny. In this global war, as it has been called, nearly all the nations of the world stand confronting each other. The war has lasted more than three years and still there is no sign of abatement. Nations are busier than ever forging weapons and seeking new arenas of war. What is the meaning of the titanic struggle ?

For one thing it is not a struggle for pelf or power, or territory or personal glory. It is more than a clash of physical forces ; it marks a moral, a spiritual crisis in human civilisation. The issues are mighty and fundamental ; the stakes are high. Which is to survive—Civilisation or Barbarism, Right or Might, Freedom or Slavery, God or the Devil ? That is the issue. That is why the struggle is colossal and unceasing. When the world emerges from the din and the smoke of the present fury there is no doubt it will pass into a new orbit of hope, faith, and charity—of *Peace, and Goodwill on Earth.*

1942 ends more brightly and more hopefully than it began. The year opened with the PEARL HARBOUR treachery, which soon overwhelmed MALAYA and BURMA, the EAST INDIES and the PHILIPPINES, and even threatened INDIA

and AUSTRALIA. In the west, the Nazi hordes entrenched amidst the snows for a while, emerged, with the break of summer and overrunning the fertile spaces of the DONETZ and the DON threatened the VOLGA and the CAUCASUS. The Afrika Korps swooping on TOBRUK and advancing on EL ALAMEIN threatened the SUEZ and the NILE valley. The U-boat continued its menace on the sea.

The end of the year presents a different picture. The Japanese reverses beginning at MIDWAY and the Coral Sea have since been followed by the naval disasters at the SOLOMONS. Australians hitting strong blows are winning in NEW GUINEA. British and American Forces assembled in strength in INDIA have started their march into BURMA. The Japanese trying to advance on the eastern and western frontiers of CHINA have been hurled back.

In the west, the resilience of what the *Times* calls 'the astonishing Russian Army' is something of a marvel. STALINGRAD has not only been held from the enemy but now holds the enemy down. What has fallen is not STALINGRAD but only the temperature on the Volga. Further, in the last few weeks, in quick succession four new big offensives have been launched, with more to follow, and the cumulative effect will be even more fatal to the enemy than the Russian riposte before MOSCOW of last year. The enemy is being hurled back and annihilated all along the Russian front. It is now the Russians' turn to say that what they want is the annihilation of the enemy and not territory. As the territory is their own it will naturally come back when the enemy has been annihilated.

But the greatest and most agreeable surprise of the year is associated with the happenings in AFRICA in November and December. Here the 'invincible' Rommel had invited Mussolini for a triumphal entry into EGYPT, when lo!, the fates and the British 8th Army decided otherwise and Rommel in unceasing flight at the rate of 20 miles a day is now at least a thousand and two hundred miles away from the scene of his intended triumph, driven out of EGYPT and out of CYRENNAICA too. He is now racing across TRIPOLITANIA with Montgomery on his heels, and a price set for his capture.

At the other, that is, the western end of North AFRICA, another marvel of no less importance was accomplished on Nov. 8, when a huge British armada, proudly cleaving the seas, under the very nose of Hitler's U-boats landed an Anglo-American army in strength on North-African soil. Here the French have joined the Allied cause. The Allies are now hammering at TUNIS and BIZERTA where the enemy is vainly trying to ensconce himself. In despair and in treason Hitler has overrun 'unoccupied' FRANCE, in violation of his plighted word, with the result that most of the valuable French Fleet at TOULON has been either scuttled or damaged.

1942, again, has been a year of transition, the Allies gradually feeling their way to the offensive and the enemy slinking back to the defensive. This reversal is not in full operation yet but the process has begun. The first

indication of this welcome change was seen in Hitler's winter speech in which he stated, that his tactics, had changed from BLITZKRIEG and aggression to consolidation, to the exploitation of occupied RUSSIA to stocking and stockading his continental citadel, to stand a long Allied siege.

On the Allied side, again, the counter-attack, though started has not yet grown to the dimensions of a full offensive. Already, in one dimension, in the skies, the initiative has been wrested in Western EUROPE, and is definitely achieving results in the rationalised bombing, and scientific destruction of the German centres producing the infernal weapons. Here is a second front in being, sustained victoriously.

But as the year is drawing to a close we discern a third and a fourth front emerging east and west. We do not mean the sea-front which is already in being and is busy liquidating the U-boat. We mean a new land front in AFRICA, which having liquidated Mussolini's African Empire is planning a descent on EUROPE. AFRICA has been practically liberated and the Mediterranean is being opened up. From NORWAY to the Black Sea the Nazi is frantically building up his defences, afraid of an irruption at any point.

But as we said, the full offensive is not yet, though near enough. We are still arming, though the production of our arms has reached gigantic proportions and is growing, growing, while the enemy having reached his peak, has gone short of material and labour. AMERICA is our horn of plenty and BRITAIN our Aladdin's lamp for the production of arms. The stage is being set for a 1943 offensive and our hopes are high.

And why ? It is not due merely to the strength, the growing strength of the Allied Nations, the might of RUSSIA, or the population of CHINA, or the contribution of the Dominions and INDIA, very great factors as they are, contributing to the success, but it is the justice of our cause, and—the determination and resolve of the Allied people who, tougher than ever are determined not to rest or to pause till final and lasting victory has been achieved.

'Victory is assured,' said Smuts speaking at WANDOROBO the other day, 'and the end may come sooner than we expect. It will come suddenly and smashingly and the Victory will be like the Dawn—almost before we know it.'

A word to our countrymen. It is INDIA's rare opportunity to be associated at this hour with the great forces of freedom, right and justice.

It is INDIA's privilege to be protected by the might of British arms, and fight under BRITAIN's banner. It is INDIA's duty, to do its best, to serve its hardest, and to achieve its best in the present hour of fate ; it is loyalty, it is gratitude, it is the task of the present and the hope of the future.

INDIA will not fail ; true to her past she will achieve the present and look forward to a great future.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

19—12—42 to 25—12—42.

Russia.—The centre of interest of the week is the 'magnificent dash' of the Soviet Army in the region of the Middle-Don—an offensive aimed at nothing less than the isolation of all the German armies in the south. It is a pincer attack south of VORONEJ. One Soviet army starting below VORONEJ has crossed the frozen Don and cut the vital VORONEJ—ROSTOV railway at KANTEMIROVKA; another starting further south has broken through the enemy line near BOKOVSKAYA towards the Don Elbow. The enemy has been engaged and beaten at BOGUCHAR, 140 miles south-east of VORONEJ and 180 miles north-west of STALINGRAD. The prongs of the pincer are now closing round MILLEROVO. The KHARKOV-KAMENSKAYA-STALINGRAD railway is also threatened.

There is not much to report from the other sectors. The Soviet offensive in and around STALINGRAD continues. In the central sector the Russians are consolidating their recovered areas. In the CAUCASUS, the enemy is being beaten back in the Terek sector and another offensive has started here.

Tripolitania.—Montgomery's drive which began 61 days ago at EL ALAMEIN continues with unabated vigour and speed. He has covered a distance of 1,200 miles at about 20 miles a day. By December 17 the battle was joined in TRIPOLITANIA and on the next day Allied advanced forces cut Rommel's retreating columns in two in the WADI MATRATIN area, 50 miles west of EL AGHEILA. Enemy troops east of the area were severely mauled. Since then the Allied forces have pursued the enemy past MARBLE ARCH, and NOFILIA. According to the latest reports Montgomery is now 5 miles beyond ES SULTAN and is pushing forward towards BUERAT HSUN, 50 miles west of SIRTE, hard on the heels of Rommel's rear-guard. Rommel's forces are reported to have arrived at MISURATA, 120 miles from TRIPOLI.

Tunisia.—Activity in the MEDGEZ—EL BAB sector is confined to clashes between patrols in no-man's land. The Allied positions are being consolidated. SFAX has been attacked more than once.

French troops have occupied a locality west of KAIROUAN and captured enemy positions south and south-east of PONT DU FAHS.

All French merchantshipping, in ORAN, CASABLANCA, DAKAR and other North and West African ports has been turned over to the Allies.

General Giraud has formed a special unit in the French North African Army to be known as the African Front Corps, and has been supplied with quantities of modern military equipment.

The Pacific (1) **New Guinea.**—In the BUNA area the main Allied thrusts are against the BUNA Mission and air-field. In the GONA area Australian patrols are still active. In the SADANANDA area fighting continues along a stretch of three miles on the coast. A few days ago a Japanese cruiser was sunk near Vitiaz Straits off NEW GUINEA. Cape ENDAIADERE has been taken. PORT MORESBY had its 69th enemy raid.

(2) **The Solomons.**—Japanese positions in the jungle fastnesses of GUADALCANAR have been cleared in a series of guerilla expeditions by U. S. Marines.

(3) **New Georgia**.—The MUNDA area was attacked on December 20 & 21.

(4) **Sumatra**.—A naval force operating in the Bay of Bengal carried out a heavy attack on December 20-21 on SABANG at northern end of SUMATRA.

(5) **The Aleutians.**—On December 20 U. S. bombers escorted by fighters delivered an attack on the Japanese shore installations at KISKA.

China.—During last week Chinese troops counter-attacking checked a Japanese drive between HANKOW and ICHANG in HUPEH. On December 12 the U. S. Army Air Force attacked TENCHUNG in YUNNAN. On December 14 the GILIAM aerodrome in HANOI was damaged. Later, Chinese forces in Western HUPEH re-occupied HOHSUEH. The Japanese forces at KENGTUNG, on the BURMA—YUNNAN border, which crossed the Nanlei river in the Southern SHAN STATES were held up. In Northern HUNAN a Japanese attack on the Town of YOCHOW was repulsed.

British units advancing southwards from the ARAKAN border into western BURMA have occupied the MAUNGDAW—BUTHIDAUNG area about 60 miles north-north-west of AKYAB. The enemy who had erected defences here withdrew, without offering any opposition. The advance of our troops continues. The following places were bombed—RATHEDAUNG (Dec. 18), halfway between MAUNGDAW and AKYAB; the Mayu River—AKYAB area and TOUNGOO (Dec. 19); LASHIO and TOUNGOO (Dec. 20); MAGWE, YANANG YAUNG, Mayu River area and RATHEDUNG (Dec. 23.)

INDIA.—Japanese planes raided CHITTAGONG and FENNY (BENGAL) on Dec. 16. On Dec. 20 (about 10.30 p. m.), Dec. 21 (the early hours of the morning) Dec. 22-23 (about midnight) and Dec. 24 (before midnight) the CALCUTTA area had four raids in succession. In all of them the casualties and damage were exceedingly slight.

MISCELLANEOUS.—1. There are sinister moves in the enemy camp Hitler has summoned his henchmen to his headquarters, chief among them being Marshal Cavallero, Chief of the Italian General Staff, Field Marshal Keitel, Chief of the German High Command, Ciano, the Italian Foreign Minister, M. Laval, Goering and Ribbentrop. Mussolini was significantly absent.

2. SPAIN and PORTUGAL have constituted themselves into what has been called an Iberian *bloc*. Referring to it, the Portuguese Premier Dr. Salazar said, 'This common way of thinking of the two Peninsular Countries represents a valuable political force not only in the service of PORTUGAL and SPAIN but of other countries.' Senor Jordana, the Spanish Foreign Minister observed, 'The *bloc* is capable of acting in the world in a highly efficacious and beneficent manner.'

3. Church Bells will ring in BRITAIN on Christmas morning when the ban on their use will be temporarily lifted.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

14—12—42 (Monday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy waters.
NAPLES (Italy).

NORTH AFRICA.

Ships and jetties at TUNIS and LE GOULETTE.
The Railway between SOUSSE and SFAX.
A beached vessel near SOUSSE.
Axis forces retreating towards TRIPOLI.
NOFILIA.
Axis landing grounds behind fhe retreating Axis forces in LIBYA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap troops in the BUNA area.
The aerodrome at GASMATA (Solomons).
A rail road junction at MYOHAUNG (Burma).

15—12—42 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (3 axis planes shot down).

DAY:—
Ry. engines, a goods train and barges in FRANCE and BELGIUM.
Barges off the DUTCH coast.

NORTH AFRICA.

The docks at TUNIS and LE GOULETTE.
GABES.
The landing ground at TAMET.
The air base at CASTEL BENITO.
The harbour at TRIPOLI.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole battlefield.

FAR EAST.

Jap position in the BUNA MISSION area.
The aerodromes at LAE (N. Guinea) and GASMATA (N. Britain).
A gun convoy in HUKAWNG valley (Burma).
The village of MAINGKWAN (Burma).

16—12—42 (Wednesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
No information available.
NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA.

The docks at TUNIS and BIZERTA.
The air field near TUNIS and GABES.
An enemy warship off TUNIS.
Remnants of retreating Axis forces west of NOFILIA (Libya).
TRIPOLI.
A landing ground in LAMPEDUSA Island.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft over the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap forces in the BUNA area.
The airfield on BUIN Island (Solomons).
The aerodrome at LAE (N. Guinea).
Jap occupied villages in MAUNGDAW-BUTHIDAUNG area (Burma).

17—12—42 (Thursday)

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Railway targets in Northern FRANCE.
NIGHT:—
Targets in North-west GERMANY (18 Allied planes lost).

NORTH AFRICA.

The docks at TUNIS and BIZERTA.
The railway near SOUSSE.
Axis forces near SIRTE.
Landing grounds west of SIRTE (LIBYA).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap refugees in KUMISI area.
Jap forces in the BUNA MISSION area.
SALAMAUA (N. Guinea).
HANOVER (N. Island).
MINDELO (Tunisia).
The aerodrome at MAGWE.

18—12—42 (Friday).

EUROPE.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

The harbour at BIZERTA.
The airfield at TUNIS.
The railway at MATEUR.
A railroad station at SOUSSE.
Retreating Axis forces west of SIRTE (Libya).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

MUNDA area (N. Georgia).
Enemy installations at MOABISSE and MINDELO (Timor).
BUNA area.
Jap occupied village of RATHEDUNG (Burma).

19—12—42 (Saturday).

EUROPE

(6 Allied planes and 32 Axis planes lost).

DAY:—
Airfields in the LOW COUNTRIES and Northern FRANCE.

NORTH AFRICA.

The docks at BIZERTA and TUNIS.
Transport and buildings at BUERAT.
Oil storage tanks at LE GOULETTE.
The aerodrome at COMISO (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

(For the week 12-12-42 to 19-12-42:—Russians lost 166 planes; Axis lost 322 planes.)
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

BUNA MISSION area (N. Guinea).
MADANG (Solomons).
The aerodromes at BUIN (Solomons).
TOUNGOO area (Burma).

20—12—42 (Sunday).

EUROPE (6 Allied planes missing).

DAY:—
Air port and airfield at ROMILLY-SUR-SEINE.
Offensive sweeps Northern FRANCE, from LE HAVRE to GRAVELINES.

NORTH AFRICA.

The docks at BIZERTA.
The airfield at TUNIS.
GABES.
Remmants of the Axis forces at SIRTE.
The aerodrome at HOMS.
TRIPOLI.

20—12—42. (Sunday)—cont.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap forces in the BUNA MISSION area.
The wharf area at MADANG.
The aerodrome at LAE.
The harbour at AKYAB (Burma).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

15—12—42 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

DAY:—
A town in East ANGLIA.
A place on the south-east coast of ENGLAND (one axis plane destroyed; one Br. plane missing).

RUSSIA.

Air combats over STALINGRAD and RZEV areas.

FAR EAST.

Port MORESBY (N. Guinea).
CHITTAGONG area (India) (3 Jap planes destroyed).

16—12—42 (Wednesday)

BRITAIN.

Places on the south and south-east coast of ENGLAND.

RUSSIA.

Russian troops advancing in the STALINGRAD area.

FAR EAST.

Port MORESBY (N. Guinea).
CHITTAGONG and **FENNY** (both in India).

17—12—42 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

AFRICA.

Reconnaissance over BENGHAZI (Libya) (one axis plane shot down).

RUSSIA.

Russian positions in the RZEV and STALINGRAD areas.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).

18—12—42 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

NORTH AFRICA.

Allied forward positions in the TUNIS area.

RUSSIA.

Russian troops in the central and southern sectors.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).

19—12—42 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

South-east ENGLAND (3 axis planes shot down).

NORTH AFRICA.

Allied air base at BONE.

RUSSIA.

Air combats over the STALINGRAD area.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

20—12—42. (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

Coastal distrtcts in north-east and east ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

Air combats over TUNISIA.

FAR EAST.

Calcutta (India).
CHITTAGONG area (India).

21—12—42. (Monday).

BRITAIN.

South-east coastal area in ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

Allied troops in MED–JEZ–BOB area.

FAR EAST.

Calcutta area (India).

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE MIDDLE DON-OFFENSIVE. Welcome news comes from RUSSIA of a successful offensive against the enemy across the Middle Don below VORONEJ, perilously near the northern flank of the German wedge towards STALINGRAD. The VORONEJ–ROSTOV railway has been cut 25 miles above MILLEROVO, seriously threatening German communications. The German situation is described as 'grave.' The Russian plan appears to be to isolate the enemy's Caucasian army.

Says Reuter's Military Commentator, 'the new offensive launched 150 miles south of VORONEJ is a very serious blow. It has not only cut the ROSTOV—VORONEJ railway but the Russians are threatening the KHARKOV—KAMENSKAYA—STALINGRAD railway and striking deeply between STALINGRAD, ROSTOV and the CAUCASUS. The blow may make more progress

but even as it is it may be sufficient to carry forward all Marshal Timoshenko's army. This fresh Russian attack spreads the net, which is already threatening to envelop all the German armies, much wider. It is so serious that the Germans will not be able to spare a single division to meet the pressure on the Central Front, or the possibilities of other blows further north still, of which there are certain rumours and even an indication.'

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STALIN'S 63RD BIRTHDAY was honoured in BRITAIN by 'a Salute to Stalin' broadcast on the night of December 20. We are glad that the birthday of this great leader synchronised with the big Mid-Don offensive now in progress. Stalin, RUSSIA's man of destiny, has proved himself a great leader in a moment critical not only to his country but to the world. As Mr. J. J. Blake, Chairman of the London County Council, declared, 'the cause of Civilisation and a better world, which the Allied people mean to achieve owes a heavy debt to Stalin's brilliant and inspiring leadership.'

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THE THRUST INTO BURMA. The British advance into BURMA, towards AKYAB may be taken as an indication that Wavell's promise to retake BURMA is taking some shape. Its initial purpose may be only to remove the immediate threat to CALCUTTA and to seize certain strategic bases for future operations. It may not be a big offensive as yet but the withdrawal of the enemy without opposition betrays his weakness.

AKYAB, by itself, as the *Times* reminds us, is militarily 'a dead end', and its capture would be valuable only in so far as it would deprive the Japanese of a port for small craft within striking distance of CHITTAGONG, and of an aerodrome from which advanced bases and industrial areas in BENGAL could be attacked. The road from ARAKAN to PROME is little better than a track.

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BAPTISM OF FIRE. CHITTAGONG has had her 7th raid, and for 4 days now, that is on Dec. 20, 21–23 and 24 CALCUTTA, has had her initial experience. On all these days, Japanese planes stole over the city by night—it speaks well of the defences—and dropped bombs outside the town area or in the suburb. On all the occasions the city, we learn, took it calmly and quietly. The casualties were extremely light and the damage slight. The A. R. P.'s work was efficient and the black-out complete. Life in the city continues to be normal.

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THE MEDITERRANEAN. A change has come over the situation in the Mediterranean since the landing of the Allies in North AFRICA on Nov. 8 and the expulsion of Rommel from EL AGHEILA. Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, Naval Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Expeditionary Force in North AFRICA revealed in a Press Conference during the week that while Axis vessels were being sunk at the rate of a ship a day round TUNISIA, Allied warships were helping to bring

supplies regularly not only to the 1st and 8th Armies but also to MALTA, with the result that the Allies were building up their strength in North AFRICA more rapidly than the enemy. French warships at DAKAR were now employed on coastal convoys, and those in ALEXANDRIA may soon be expected to join. The flight of Rommel has secured the British Fleet 'considerable freedom' in the Central Mediterranean, and 'absolute freedom' in the Eastern Mediterranean. The loss of TOULON has eased the Mediterranean situation in a way by removing an element of uncertainty; at any rate, part of the TOULON fleet is now either at the bottom of the sea or in the docks. As for the Italian Fleet it has long ceased to be a menace and dares not come out.

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ROME. The R. A. F. has at last made the Italians understand what the war means. The British raids on TURIN, MILAN, NAPLES and GENOA have been sufficiently impressive, and now comes the news of arrangements being in progress to declare ROME an open city. The move has presumably come from the Vatican, which under the Lateran Treaty ten years ago was allowed to exercise sovereign rights over a part of the city of ROME. But as it would be difficult to distinguish this part from the rest, when it comes to an attack, all military installations and all civil offices are being removed from the capital.

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SINNER OR SCHEMER. Admiral Darlan's statement issued to the Allied Press on Dec. 16, while it may not convince everyone no doubt explains his past, or, so to say, provides it with a plausible explanation. 'The Germans', he said, 'had me by the throat. Every move I made, everything I said or wrote and everyone with whom I talked came under the closest German scrutiny'. He went on to say that so long as the Allies were not in a position to help FRANCE he did his best to save her from dying under the German heel, and conserved some power of resistance in North AFRICA with which to revive the struggle in more favourable circumstances. When that hour struck with the landing of the Allies in that part of the world on Nov. 8 he joined the forces of freedom. In proof, he pointed out he had placed the French colonial armies in North AFRICA at the disposal of the Allies, and had agreed to transfer the French Fleet units at DAKAR, ALEXANDRIA and the North-African ports. Darlan may be a trimmer, but it looks ungracious to deny him his services in the present and President Roosevelt has done the gracious thing in admitting that since Nov. 8 the people of North AFRICA have accomplished much in support of the war effort.

Again Darlan's confessions, apparently those of a repentant sinner may in reality be words that half-reveal and half-conceal the machinations of a self-seeker trimming his sails to the wind. The Fighting French would have no truck with him, but the fact remains that, though in weather-cock fashion, he reveals the trend of the war. As Mr. Sol. Bloom, Chairman of the House of Representatives, Foreign Relations Committee put it, 'Admiral

Darlan must know by this time who is going to win the war.' [Since writing the above, news has come, over the radio, of the assassination of Admiral Darlan at ALGIERS on the afternoon of Thursday (24—12—42)—Editor.]

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NOT WAR BUT MURDER. On Dec. 16 Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, declared in the House of Commons that discussions were proceeding among the Allied Nations and with the Dominions to establish a Commission for the investigation of war crimes. On the following day he read out a Statement (printed in another part of the Bulletin) detailing GERMANY'S fiendish policy for the extermination of Jews in Eastern EUROPE, when the whole House stood up in silence, in sympathy. Old Mr. Loyd George who was present was heard to say that he had never witnessed such a demonstration in the House of Commons before. The Independent Member Mr. L. S. Lipson exclaimed, 'This was not war but murder'.

The Report of the Inter-Allied Information Committee on the German Persecution of Jews published on Dec. 19 shows that the German programme was to kill half the Polish Jewish population within a year, for which special Extermination Commandos had been organised and trained, the execution being carried out by electrocution or with lethal gas. Deportations were carried out at the rate of 10,000 a day. According to Dr. Stephen Wise, President of the American Jewish Congress, since 1939 the number of Jews who had perished or been deported in Axis-Europe was 2,000,000, while 5,000,000 were in imminent danger.

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TEHERAN. It is now known that the recent disorders in PERSIA were at Axis instigation. The isturbances were confined to the capital and had nothing to do with food-shortage. But Axis propaganda keeps busy blaming BRITAIN for having brought about famine conditions by requisitioning food supplies. Actually by an Anglo-American agreement BRITAIN and the U. S. A. have undertaken to supply cereals to IRAN, and the first consignment is being sent from British Army stocks in the MIDDLE EAST. In the past also GREAT BRITAIN imported large quantities of cereals and textiles to improve the economic situation. Qavam Sultaneh, the Prime Minister of IRAN, has also acknowledged the British help in a recent statement in which he said 'This action is a fresh sign of mutual friendship and I hope it will give the lie to the Axis propaganda alleging non-cooperation between IRAN and the Allies'

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PRODUCTION, PREPARATION AND ACHIEVEMENT. Captain Oliver Lyttleton revealed in the House of Commons on Dec. 16 that the combined merchant-shipping programme of BRITAIN and the U. S. A. in 1943 would exceed 20 million deadweight tons. The object achieved during his recent visit to WASHINGTON was to secure the optimum effect on the enemy in 1943.

'We have a secret weapon or two up our aerial sleeves that will deal paralysing air-blows on our enemies,' said Genl. Arnold, Chief of the U. S. Army Air Force the other day, addressing air cadets at a training centre.

Mr. Robert Patterson, Under-Secretary for War, has disclosed that the U. S. A.'s Army now totals 5 million men.

Here is another encouraging figure. From February to December this year the U. S. army air forces destroyed 928 Axis planes in air-combat, the ratio of planes lost being 4 to 1 in AMERICA's favour.

THE C. D. MOVEMENT.

H. E. THE VICEROY'S APPEAL.

—Calcutta Dec. 17.

To the sorrow of all who cared for the good name of India, Government had to deal with an uprising, consequent on the programme of the leaders of the Congress Party, of great gravity and severity. The uprising, which had no support from great sections of the Hindu Community and from which the Muslim Community and other important parts of the population of India dissociated themselves, which affected only in the smallest degree, the Indian States was, perhaps, the work of a numerically small but very important section.

But that section carefully organized and unscrupulous in the methods it adopted, indifferent to the creed of non-violence to which such prominence was given, was able to cause immense damage, serious dislocation of communications, much destruction of public and private property, heavy loss to the tax-payer, deaths of many innocent persons.

At a time when the efforts of all of us were directed and necessarily directed to protecting India against Japanese aggression, and to building up supplies and stores for our own defence and for the battle against the Axis, it resulted in a serious diversion of military forces and an interruption deeply to be regretted in the war effort.

SHOCKING BRUTALITY.

To the sorrow of all of us who care for the good name of India, those disturbances were disfigured by very shocking cases of brutality and violence. And a grievous feature of them is the use to which designing men endeavoured to turn, and indeed succeeded in many cases in turning, the young enthusiasm, the intelligence and the lack of experience of the student community. Those who diverted those young men, young men of such promise with their future just opening before them, into the dangerous paths of civil tumult and disorder, carry an immense responsibility to India, and to the ardent and generous youth whom they have led astray.

In restoring order everything possible was done to use the minimum degree of force, and to cause the minimum disturbance. The success of that policy is shown by the very low figures of casualties. The situation is well in hand, though even now in certain areas it continues to call for the utmost vigilance and care.

PERSECUTION OF JEWS.

THE UNITED NATIONS' DECLARATION.

THE CRIMINALS WILL BE PUNISHED.

The attention of the Governments of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the U. S. S. R., Yugoslavia, and the French National Committee has been drawn to numerous reports from Europe that German authorities, not content with denying to persons of the Jewish race in all the territories over which their barbarous rule has been extended, the most elementary human rights, are now carrying into effect Hitler's oft-repeated intention to exterminate the Jewish people in Europe.

From all the occupied countries Jews are transported in conditions of appalling horror and brutality to Eastern Europe and Poland, which has been made the principal slaughter-house.

Ghettos established by the German invaders are being systematically emptied of all Jews, except a few highly-skilled workers required for war industries. None of those taken away are ever heard of again.

The able-bodied are slowly worked to death in labour camps, the infirm are left to die of exposure, or starvation, or are deliberately massacred in mass executions. The number of victims of these bloody cruelties is reckoned in many hundreds of thousands of entirely innocent men, women and children.

The above mentioned Governments and the French National Committee condemn in the strongest possible terms this bestial policy of cold-blooded extermination. They declare that such events can only strengthen the resolve of all freedom-loving peoples to overthrow the barbarous Hitlerite tyranny.

They reaffirm their solemn resolution to ensure that those responsible for these crimes shall not escape retribution, and to press with the necessary practical measures to ensure this end.

"THE INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION BUREAU."

The Nazi propagandists are too shrewd not to realize that in the long run events will show up their lies. The various devices, often as ingenious as the one dealt with below, that they adopted are a measure of their fear of being

found out. In a broadcast talk, which is given below, W. A. Sinclair, B.B.C. propaganda expert, on November 10, described an extremely clever method adopted by Berlin—creating a news agency which is a figment of Goebbels' imagination.

A NEW DEVICE.

"There is one propaganda device the Nazis are using of late, which is, I think, entirely new. You may have heard of "the International Information Bureau," which the Germans quote from time to time in their news bulletins. This is a fairy tale news agency. It was invented by the German Propaganda Ministry some three or four weeks ago. It's said to be a neutral News Agency, a new one, and the German radio quotes it in the same way as our radio and your radio quote *Reuters*, or the United Press, or any of the other well known News Agencies. If you listen to one of the Nazi News readers broadcasting and hear him quoting this News Agency, it all sounds quite normal. For instance, the German Radio on November 3, said that the special correspondent of "the International Information Bureau" in North Africa reports that the large scale British attack, which was started by the heavy artillery preparation the day before, on the El Alamein Front had collapsed, and so forth. You may think that a News Agency which says things like this is not particularly reliable, but it certainly sounds as if some such News Agency did really exist, whatever be its reliability or unreliability. But, as a matter of fact, no such Agency exists at all. Whether anything at all exists, corresponding to this impressive name of "International Information Bureau", is at least questionable, as you'll see in a moment, but certainly no correspondents of the Agency exist in North Africa, cr anywhere else for that matter.

PRETENCE KEPT UP.

"The Nazis keep up the pretence—the pretence that it's a real agency, with considerable ingenuity. They always speak about it with an air of not very interested detachment, as if it really had nothing to do with them. On October 31, for instance, which was the first date on which I came across it at first hand, on that date, the German Radio said that the International Information Bureau had reported that U-boats in the Atlantic had sunk 100,000 tons of Allied shipping. Half an hour later, the German Radio broadcast that a later report from the International Information Bureau had said that the total had risen to 165,000 tons. And then, another three and half hours later, the German Radio, with an air of disinterested detachment, suddenly told its listeners that the figure reported by the International Information Bureau might not be altogether reliable as the German authorities had not yet issued their official figures. It's rather like a literary man publishing a novel under a pen-name, and then writing a review of it under his own name.

TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY.

"You see that the invention of the imaginary News Agency is for the Germans a most ingenious and useful device. When the Nazis want to say

something which they would like to say, and which they yet feel to be so extreme and absurd that they don't want to risk having it quoted back at them later, they can do this by saying that this so-called neutral News Agency has reported it. This enables them to start rumours and drop hints in the hope that some fool somewhere or other will believe them. It enables them also to publish extreme claims, and then to escape the consequences afterwards when the full facts become known, by saying that it was not the Germans who made the statement but only this regrettably unreliable News Agency. They've used it for this purpose quite frequently, in reporting the fighting at Stalingrad, during the last few weeks; and, of course, the invention of this convenient News Agency enables the Nazi Propagandists to give themselves an appearance of moderation and of caution, and of reliability, by periodically warning their listeners against believing too much of what this News Agency announces, unless (so they say) it has been confirmed by the strictly truthful German Propaganda Ministry.

WHAT LED TO ITS INVENTION?

"There are two reasons that have, I think, led the Nazis to invent this News Agency. The first is that the old Nazi device of ascribing wild statements to neutral newspapers is no longer working very well. The B.B.C have developed an inconvenient habit of getting hold of the neutral newspaper in question, and reading over the air to listeners the actual passage that the Nazis have distorted, thus pointing out that Nazis alleged quotation is entirely imaginary, as it frequently is. The other reason is the change in the military situation, or the change in the kind of situation that the Nazis have to report.

"Think back to the early days of war, when the Nazi Armies were over-running Norway and Holland and Belgium and France, and think back even to the early days of the war in Russia, when the Nazi Armies were advancing regularly day after day. At that time people often said, 'Nazi Propaganda is all lies, but the German High Command *communiqué* is accurate.' If therefore people said at that time, this High Command *communiqué* says that the German troops are in such-and-such a place, then they are in it. So said many people in 1940 and even in 1941, and I heard people say it frequently in Britain too, at that time.

GERMAN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUES.

"Many people, believed that the German High Command *communiqués* were telling lies only after Hitler took over supreme command in the Army. This is not so. I think a certain change in the manner of wording the *communiqués* was noticeable after he took over, but they were no more truthful before than they were afterwards. As a matter of fact, the German High Command *communiqués* were not accurate any more than the rest of German propaganda, though they often looked as if they were. What was happening was this. On say a Tuesday, in those early days of the war, the German High Command *communiqué* would announce that German troops had crossed, say, the River

Somme. Well, on that Tuesday very likely no German troops had even got near the River Somme, but by the Thursday or the Friday, they had got near it, and they had got across. Similarly, the High Command *communiqués* regularly reported that a given town say Calais, had been captured, when in fact it had not been captured, and was not captured until some days later That's to say, the *communiqués* were frequently plain lies, like the rest of Nazi propaganda, but the lies were detected only by those making a special study of the subject, because within a few days the Germans had advanced to the places they claimed.

NEED FOR IMPRESSIVE NEWS.

"The Germans wanted to give an impression of continuous military advance, for they believe very strongly that nothing succeeds like success and they really were having a continuous military advance. They could, as a matter of fact, perfectly well have told the truth quite safely, but they preferred to go one better than the truth. Then things began to go differently from what the German High Command expected. Beginning at the time of the Battle of Britain, things stopped happening according to the German plan. For instance, the High Command announced that the R. A. F. had been driven out of the skies of England—that was their own words—and they announced that the *Luftwaffe* had complete air control, because, though the men in the German High Command were well aware that at the moment that was simply not true, still they expected that it would be true in, say, a week's time or so. Well, when that week passed, and as later weeks passed, it became extremely clear that the R. A. F. had not been driven out of the skies of England, and it became clear that the R. A. F. was, instead, proceeding to control the air on the other side of the Channel. The High Command *communiqués* were neither true, nor did they come true, and then, the systematic lying in them became for the first time clear to the ordinary newspaper reader and radio listener.

Later, when Germany invaded Russia, the same process was gone through all over again. People began to believe the German *communiqués* because the statements in them, though they were not true when the *communiqués* were issued, did become true some days later. Then this ceased, because the German advance was halted by the Russians in the early winter of 1941, and again it became clear to the general public that the High Command *communiqués* were just not true. The same sort of thing has been obvious again in the Russian fighting this winter, and I think it has been this situation which has finally led the Nazi propagandists to fall back upon inventing this International Information Bureau, instead of always using the High Command *communiqués* to cheer on the German people and to distress the Allied Nations.

REFUSAL TO COMMIT ITSELF.

"They are quoting this imaginary neutral News Agency to say, for instance, that the whole factory district of Stalingrad is in German hands. This sort of thing, this quotation, enables them to give an impression of

continuing success ; it enables them to give a general atmosphere of military achievement to their news bulletins, without committing the High Command itself to a definite statement which might, a few days later, turn out to be plain lies. The interesting question about this News Agency—a question that at the moment I just don't know enough to answer definitely—the interesting question is whether anything at all exists corresponding to this impressive name of International Information Bureau. It may simply be a name, and nothing more. It may be like that Mrs. Harris in Dickens' novel, who was always being quoted by Sarah Gamp. You remember how it is only after a long acquaintance with Sarah that one realised that the loquacious Mrs. Harris existed in Sarah's imginatiom only, and nowhere else.

" On the other hand, it may be the case that there are some one or two clerks in the Nazi Propaganda Ministry in Berlin who write reports which are then ascribed to the imaginary Foreign Correspondents of the Agency in remote places. But, in any case, whether it's just a Mrs. Harris, or whether it does consist of a small Office of some kind, it's simply an invention of the German Propaganda Ministry, and it's invented for the announcements of the things the Propaganda Ministry does not want to risk saying itself.

"This imaginary neutral News Agency has been appearing in the German news with increasing frequency during the last three weeks, and I expect that in the coming months the world will be told more and more of what it says, especially if the military events themselves continue to go more and more against Germany. And further, the Nazis will profess great indignation with anyone who says that it doesn't exist at all, and they may, with great solemnity, describe it, and they will describe how it works, and they will no doubt publish photographs of it, as is their invariable custom when perpetrating a fraud."

THE BLOCKADE WEAPON.

Leonard Ingrams.

War, in its former sense of conflict between armed forces, will hardly describe this present opposition of whole economies to each other. The challenge of the Axis War States is corporate, concerted force. Their striking power is rooted in the daily lives of all their nationals. The clear dividing line between the soldiers and the people is quite untraceable. **The railway, the larder, and the workshop are fronts on which their enterprise can fail.** Every process in their planned economies is part of their military campaigns.

The answer to this challenge of the Axis War States is twofold. They must be met by force to match and to exceed their own, and their concentration of their own resources must be limited, confused and dissipated in every possible way. The threatened citizens of the free world must equally concentrate their energies to the single purpose of offensive force, and while they are building up their armies the enemy must be prevented by all means possible from adding to his strength and maintaining his effort.

The day of his defeat must be hastened by mobilising the resources of the United Nations and by immobilising simultaneously the resources of the Axis—by attacking the whole complex of materials, machines, men, organisation, and all that go to make up his economic fighting power. This latter task is economic warfare. Its most impressive weapon is blockade.

The seas were out of bounds to German shipping when the war began, and contraband, which means in practice anything to help the enemy, was seized off neutral ships as well. Britain's international commercial strength was mobilised to help the Navy. British controlled bunkers and water, repairs, towage. Britain's banking facilities and insurance, were reserved around the world for friendly ships, and by the end of 1941 the enemy's supplies from neutrals overseas, however indirect, were being effectively cut off at the source.

Important penalties were placed on help to Germany from neutral territory and Europe too. Private businesses which dealt with Germany were listed as declared enemies of Britain. Now they're proclaimed enemies of America as well, and aiding or abetting Germany is most unprofitable.

The American Government, co-operating increasingly in economic warfare, has also frozen European funds in the United States, and works with Britain to buy up supplies of vital materials within reach of Germany on the European mainland in competition with the Axis.

CONQUEST OF EUROPE DID NOT BREAK THE BLOCKADE.

Within their legal frontiers, neither Germany nor Japan had natural resources enough to maintain for long the effert of modern warfare against determined opposition. **The plan of both was to rely on force, as bandits do, to get what they lacked.** The method of both was to pile up vast quantities of raw material and general supplies. The intention of both was to win with blitzkrieg tactics if not final victory then new resources to reinforce their own and vantage points to defend them from, and then to plan, if need be, further conquest. If need be! Hostilities were far from finished when Germany's lightning conquest of almost all of Western Europe was completed. Above all, the blockade was unbroken The Japanese explosion in the Pacific was equally impressive in its results. But of these results, by far the most important occurred on the American Continent. In neither case had the Axis partners yet gained control of an area rich enough of itself to feed the hungry mouths of their huge victorious war machines for ever. **Broadly speaking, Japan has more raw materials than she wants, and Germany—with lack of raw materials and man-power—has in Europe more factory space than she can use. Both of them are short of cotton, wool, and copper, but both have huge advantages' to offer to each other if they could easily exchange their products.** Their greatest need in either case is victory to give them time to exploit their gains and check the wastage of their strength in battle. And, failing victory, they both must base their strategy on economic factors. **The importance of military decisions will be reckoned in terms of their economic consequences, the plus and minus of resources they entail.**

Germany started the war with a large reservoir of strength. Something of that ran out in the campaigns of 1939 and 1940. But her strength was replenished with loot and plant and workers when Western Europe capitulated. Early in 1941, brother Mussolini was bogged and beaten in Greece and hollering for help. In aid of Italy, the Balkans were invaded. Here on balance, the plus and minus of economic gains and losses was not so favourable ; in fact, the trade agreements carefully built up for years before the war to ensure steady flow of food to Germany were thoroughly upset. Men and horses were mobilised from the fields, sowing and reaping were interfered with, and the Balkan peasantry turned actively hostile to the conquerors. In June last year Germany attacked Russia, while, as she calculated, there was still enough reserved in blockaded Europe to tide her over until Russia could be conquered and Russian territories organized to yield rich dividends.

HOW RUSSIA HAS HELPED IN THE BLOCKADE.

The effects of blockade have been tremendously accelerated by the drain on Germany's reservoir that Russia's heroic resistance has made. Here was not blitzkrieg, and no loot ; no systematic winter pause for men to return for a while to the fields and the factories ; better still, as winter gave place to spring of this year, still more men had to be combed out of industry and agriculture for the forces. Material resources, too, ran out at a far greater rate than they could be replaced. To keep the Army up to strength and fully equipped and supplied has meant in practice that the Army has first call on manpower, oil, leather, textiles, transport and food ; industrial production, agriculture, fisheries, and civilian life generally have to make do with what is left over.

In those cases particularly that I have mentioned it hasn't been enough, and now, while the blockade of Europe is still maintained, aggressive weapons in the economic war grow daily with the growing strength of the United Nations. **Sea and air forces are relentlessly driving the enemies' coastwise traffic off the seas and on to over-burdened inland traffic lines.** In Northern waters the offensive against shipping has notably increased this year. Bomber Command, meanwhile, has entered the scene in force. Raids on a greater scale than German raids on Britain in the winter of 1940—41, have now been carried out for several months on the key war industries of German Europe. Well-placed bombs on plant and machinery are hampering production, and more important still, they are dislocating the nice balance of the enemy's resources of man-power and materials as between his home front and his battle front. They are striking at those daily lives of enemy nationals in which the enemy's striking power is rooted. The Germans have had to calculate—as we have seen—how much of effort could be spent upon the Army and its needs, and how little could be allocated to meet the barest civilian necessities and to maintain the health and stamina of the people and their efficiency.

Like a camel, their home front has been told to live off its hump, to make things do till the war ends; and like a camel its master has placed upon it just as much as its back is calculated to bear without breaking.

Heavy air raids create new tasks of re-equipping and rehousing displaced populations, restarting interrupted services, and reorganizing civilian life. These new tasks must call for their accomplishment, not on reserves of labour and materials—of which there are none—but on the very sinews of the war machine itself.

SPIRITUAL FORCE OF FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLES.

There is another factor in the economic war, which has grown daily in force and which can equally help to paralyse the striking arm of Germany. The United Nations have no monopoly of the spiritual force that men and women derive from man's passionate insistence on his right of freedom. There is no country of Europe in which this force is not at work. In the West, workers resist pressure to fill up under duress gaps in German man-power. In the South-east, peasants rebel against an imposed lease-lend which forces them to lend to oppressors they dislike on a lease, the terms of which they distrust. **Peasants of South-east Europe who exported last year only one-fifth of the corn and maize and only half of the oil-seeds that they did before the war are blockading Germany as truly as a British policy that stops Argentine maize and Indian oil-cake from reaching her.**

All these factors—blockade in the West and fighting in the East, dislocation from the air and rebellion on the border—are forming themselves to-day into a single scheme in which the Axis War States will be finally overthrown by military defeat.

THE JAPANESE ROCKET.

(Weekly News Report.)

It was said of a famous statesman that he went up like a rocket and came down like a stick. Forced upward by the joint forces of treachery and careful preparation, the Japanese rocket has exploded into a brief constellation of Co-Prosperity lights and now hangs poised for a moment on its parabolic course before beginning its giddy descent to destruction.

Why was the ascent so sudden, and why must the fall be complete? The first explosive ingredient was treachery, which, as we now know, crippled the American Pacific Fleet for the first six months of the war. The second was good fortune, which delivered two battleships into their hands. A third was

that forethought which worked out the last details of jungle warfare and the greatest refinement of fifth column work. Another was the sheer lack of means of a Britain which had faced for a year alone the full power of Hitler's might.

But there were other forces which speeded the rocket on its upward course which the Japs had no right to count on ; there was over confidence and under estimation of Japanese strength and skill. There was the pathetic belief that the Japanese meant what they said when they talked of Liberation and Co-Prosperity. "They will say, 'We come to liberate you'" said Madame Chiang. "It is a lie!". There were those who disregarded the terrible story of China, who ostrich-like murmured in the sand, "The Japanese will not hurt us".

It is already clear that the Japanese rocket has reached its zenith ; the lights of the Co-Prosperity firmament are dimming. There are many reasons for this. There was the chivalrous aid of the Chinese, the heroic stand to Generals Mac Arthur and Wainwright on the Batan Peninsula, the epic campaign of General Alexander in Burma, the splendid defiance of Admiral Helfrich in Java. There was the sturdy stand of the Australians when apparently isolated, the feats of Admiral Nimitz and his men, and finally the bending of the rocket's course at Guadalcanar and in New Guinea. There were the men who resisted when resistance seemed hopeless, and the men who planned when planning seemed futile.

All these had their share, but the greatest factor of all was the rottenness of Japan's own promises. "To conquer the world we must first take Europe and Asia", said the Tanaka Memorial. "To conquer Europe and Asia we must first take China, and to conquer China we must first take Manchuria and Mongolia." A project which depended on rapid success and the co-operation of the occupied countries has failed because of the delay imposed by dogged resistance, which at the time seemed a futile gesture, and the refusal of the subject peoples to take their assigned places in the Co-Prosperity scheme.

The Jap, like the German, has the gift of making himself universally detested. His arrogance and bullying ways, his racial pride and insensitiveness, his unashamed exploitation decked out by cynical promises, have only one result on his victims—dislike and distaste which slowly deepens into hatred. His Shinto shrine before him, his Geisha girls around him, his drug trafficker. and his army of small office-seekers in his rear, he comes to every country like locusts from the desert. The Burmese are told, "Burmese cannot hope to attain independence by sitting back and waiting for it", in Siam, "regimentation is complete and exhaustive", the Javanese must learn Japanese and work longer hours, Malaya is to be a Japanese colony where Malays work for Japss Much is expected from him who promises much, and that is why, all over the Co-Prosperity sphere, disillusion is general and the desire for an Allied victory is steadily rising.

CHEERFUL AND COURAGEOUS WARRIORS.

BRITISH ARMY OFFICER'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN ARMY.

(B. B. C. Talk).

A British officer who does not know India, but during the last year and more has served besides Indian troops of all kinds in battle in Syria, Egypt and Libya, pays tribute to Indian soldiers.

I know nothing of the internal conditions in India, but during the last year and more I have seen Indian troops of all kinds in battle in Syria, Egypt and Libya. I do not know whether it is generally realised that an infantry brigade in the Indian Army consists of two Indian battalions and one English or Scottish battalion. The gunners are usually British. The Indian battalions themselves frequently consist of companies from different parts of India, Punjabis or Sikhs or Maharattas or Rajaputs or Jats, or units from other parts of India, or the Gurkhas from our ally Nepal.

IN DAMASCUS.

I was lucky enough to be present on more than one occasion when these fine fighting troops went into action. The capture of Damascus in June last year was largely, if not wholly, due to an Indian Infantry brigade, whose sole survivors at the end of a bloody battle consisted of one company. I shall never forget the house and garden in the suburbs of Damascus where the gallant troops, having forced their way in through intense fire, held out to the last round and to the last man. When they were finally overwhelmed by tanks and guns at short range, there was not one of the 50 survivors who was unwounded.

Nor shall I forget November last year at Sidi Omar, when a very strong position occupied by Germans and Italians was being attacked by the Sussex Regiment, the Sikhs and the Punjabis, the stirring sight of the Indians coming up into battle in their trucks—packed 20 to a truck—through heavy enemy fire, singing their battle songs, smiles on their faces and high courage in their hearts.

JOBS WELL DONE.

To tell of all their battles during the last few months would take up too much time. I should, however, like to give you one or two examples of the sort of jobs they did so well. At Derna, for instance, where the Sikhs stormed the aerodrome while German aircraft were still coming down and taking off, there is a very steep cliff or escarpment facing the sea, with a most important road cut into its face—incidentally, a great feat of engineering. Huge portions of this road had been demolished. By manual labour, piling stone upon stone, the Indian Sappers had got the road open, and we were able to make use of it with our heaviest vehicles.

Again the roads were heavily mined; no traffic could possibly use them until the sappers had been along and removed the mines and other traps laid for the unwary. The sappers were up at work almost before the enemy had gone.

A JOB AND MORE.

Later in the campaign, when we were on the Gazala line, and mines were being laid, my battalion had taken up a position next to an Indian brigade, and it was my job to find out how far the Indian Sappers would go with their mine-laying before nightfall, in order that our patrols might not unknowingly cross the mines. So keen, however, were those Sappers to get on with their job that when night came and our patrols went out, it was found that they had laid mines nearly a mile beyond the limit which could have been expected. You can imagine the confusion in the dark when a patrol of Scotsmen came unexpectedly upon a patrol of Indians. This was not lessened by the Indians' insistence on trying to extract the pass word—which was the only English word they could speak, from a number of Scotsmen who did not know it.

This particular minefield was a monument of labour and ingenuity, for these Sappers had suffered casualties from enemy booby traps and were determined to get their own back. On this occasion they filled the minefield with so many ingenious contraptions that I don't envy any human being who endeavoured to walk through it.

RELIABLE FRIENDS.

Whenever one came across Indian detachments in the desert and they were scattered wide and far—one could always rely on obtaining from them—if they had it—whatever one required in the way of petrol, water, food or anything else.

I spent a few weeks on a course in anti-tank gunnery with some of those Indian soldiers. It was really amazing to see how in a few days they picked up the intricacies and the drill, in spite of the handicap of working through an interpreter who knew no more of the subject than they did. At the end of ten days, when it came to firing at moving targets, British units did well if they got off 15 rounds with ten hits in the allotted time. These Indians I am speaking of, however, had no difficulty in getting off 22 rounds and making 20 hits.

In conclusion, I for one could wish for nothing better than to fight with my unit alongside these cheerful and courageous warriors. Their utter dependability to support their sister British battalions in a tight spot in the past is well known throughout the Middle East. This high standard will, I am convinced, be maintained wherever British and Indian troops find themselves together.

"HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION" ZOYA KOSMODEMYANSKAYA.

Throughout the Soviet Union, from Moscow to Vladivostok, the name of Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, known as Tanya, is held up as one of the greatest heroines of this war. For exceptional self-sacrifice and bravery she has been posthumously awarded the title of "HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION", the Order of Lenin and the Gold Star. This is her story as it was told by the peasants of Petrishchevo when the town was later recaptured from the Nazis by the Red Army.

When the last great German onslaught on Moscow began, Zoya was a well educated girl of eighteen. She was devoted to the study of Russian and foreign literature. At school, she had been taught the use of arms, and when Nazis began their advance on Moscow, she was so inspired with the idea of the defence of her country that she volunteered and was accepted as a member of a Guerilla group working in the German rear. She crossed through the battle-zone to join this group and work with it behind Petrishchevo, not far from Moscow, where a large German force was garrisoned. In the course of her duties she succeeded in destroying a large number of German military buildings and headquarters and also in setting fire to several ammunition and petrol dumps. So successful were her efforts in harassing the Germans and in eluding capture that she soon became the terror of the Nazi Forces. During daytime she hid in the forests, and when the rest of the guerilla group was obliged to return owing to shortage of food, she insisted upon staying behind.

She continued her activities for some time, but one night, when she was about to set fire to a German transport dump, she was captured and interrogated under terrible torture. She refused to divulge the whereabouts of any other guerillas and would not even reveal her own name. At night, Zoya was forced to walk about in the snow barefoot and almost naked, and when she asked for drinking-water, the sentry mockingly offered her kerosene oil and later held the burning lamp to her face. She was finally dragged to an improvised gallows in the village square and publicly hanged. When on the scaffold, she addressed the crowd which had been forcibly collected by the German soldiers to witness the execution in tho following words : "Comrades, do not lose heart, keep your courage high, fight and smash the Nazis, burn and chase them out. I am not afraid of death ; it is a privilege to die for the people".

While the German officers were taking photographs of this ghastly procedure, she had time to address the following words to the Germans : **"You may hang me, but I am not alone. There are two hundred million of us and**

you cannot hang us all. I shall be avenged by others. German soldiers, surrender before it is too late. The victory of the Red Army is inevitable.' Her last words as the rope was being fastened on her neck and a soldier approached to kick away the wooden box under her feet were "Good-bye, Comrades. Fight on and do not fear. Stalin is with us. He will come to free you."

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PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXXVI. (*Batch 2*)

19-12-42	Municipal Office.	6.00 p.m.
20-12-42	Kudumiyamalai ..	7.00 ,,
,,	Parambur ...	7.30 ,,
21-12-42	Vengalur ...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Konapattu ...	7.30 ,,
22-12-42	Panayappatti ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Rangiyam ...	7.30 ,,

LECTURE CXXVII. (*Batch 3.*)

3- 1-43	Alangudi ...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Vadakadu ...	7.30 ,,
4- 1-43	Annavasal ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Kilakkurichchi...	7.30 ,,
5- 1-43	Kulipirai ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Sundaram ...	7.30 ,,
6- 1-43	Ramachandrapuram.	7.00 p.m.
,,	Rayavaram ...	7.30 ,,
7- 1-43	Malaiyur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Karambakkudi...	7.30 ,,
8- 1-43	Sadayampatti ...	7.00 ,,
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